

Asking to Give

Lesson # 26: (Lk. 11:1-13; Jn. 7:37-39; COL 139-149)

The parable we will study in our lesson today is very closely linked with the Lord's Prayer. In fact, the parable illustrates what should be our attitude when we approach the Lord in prayer as well as what we should do once the Lord has answered us. Let's begin by taking a look at the historical context within which Jesus told the parable.

The Historical Context

1. Where was Jesus immediately before he taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer? He was praying. "Seeming _____ of their presence, He continued praying _____. The hearts of the disciples were _____ moved. As he ceased praying, they exclaimed, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" (COL 140; see also, Lk. 11:1)
2. What did Jesus do immediately after he taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer? "Then in a parable He _____ the _____ He desired to teach them." (COL 140)

The Prayer Life of Jesus

1. How did the prayer life of Jesus illustrate the principle He sought to teach in this parable? "Christ was continually _____ from the Father that He might communicate to _____." (COL 139)
2. Which Bible texts does Ellen White provide to corroborate her comment in question # 1? "The word which ye hear, is not _____, but the _____ which sent Me. . . . The Son of man came not to be _____ unto, but to minister." (Jn. 14:24; Mt. 20:28)
3. What does Ellen White tell us about the prayer life of Jesus? "From _____ spent with God He came forth morning by morning, to bring the _____ of heaven to men. Daily He received a _____ baptism of the Holy _____." (COL 139)
4. Which messianic prophecy does Ellen White quote to prove her point in question # 3? "The Lord God hath _____ Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a _____ in season to him that is weary: He _____ morning by morning, He _____ Mine ear to hear as the learned." (Isa. 50:4)
5. What does the Gospel of Mark tell us about the habitual prayer life of Jesus? "And in the morning, rising up a great while before _____, he went out, and departed into a _____ place, and there prayed." (Mk. 1:35)

6. What does Ellen White say about the choreography of Christ's life? "Christ in His life on earth made no _____ for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father _____ His plans. So should we depend upon God that our lives may be the simple _____ of His will. As we commit our ways to Him, He will _____ our steps." (The Ministry of Healing, 478, 479)
7. What is one of the central lessons of this parable? "Here Christ represents the petitioner as _____ that he might _____." (COL 140)

Receiving to Give

1. What lesson did Jesus seek to teach His disciples when He fed of five thousand? "They must receive _____ food, or they would have nothing to _____." (COL 141)

Note: When Jesus fed the five thousand he first multiplied the bread and fishes thus providing an abundant supply of food. Jesus then gave the food to the disciples that they might impart it to the multitude. They received Christ's abundant supply in order to give.

2. What altruistic spirit should characterize our prayers? "Our prayers are not to be a selfish _____, merely for our own _____. We are to ask that we may give." (COL 143)
3. How does John 7:37-39 teach the same lesson about receiving and giving? "If any man thirst, let him come unto _____ and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his _____ shall flow rivers of living water."

Note: When we come to Jesus, the Source and Fount of every spiritual blessing, we in turn become fountains to others of those same blessings.

4. Whom does the selfish neighbor represent? "But the selfish neighbor in the parable does not represent the _____ of God. The lesson is drawn, not by _____ but by contrast. A selfish man will grant an _____ request, in order to rid himself of one who _____ his rest. But God _____ to give." (COL 141)
5. Why does God impart so many blessings to us? "He _____ to us that we may _____ to others and thus become like _____." (COL 141)
- 6.. According to the apostle Paul, what wise words did Jesus speak? "Remember the words of the Lord _____, how he said, 'It is more _____ to give than to _____.'" (Acts 20:35)

7. What enables us to receive an ever constant supply of heavenly blessings? “The capacity for receiving is _____ only by _____. We cannot continue to receive heavenly treasure without _____ to those around us.” (COL 143)
8. What happens when we put the words of Jesus in Acts 20:35 into practice? “Give, and it shall be _____ unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, shall men _____ into your bosom. For with the same _____ that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you _____.” (Lk. 6:38)

The Father Who Delights to Hear

1. What did Jesus say about the solicitous generosity of a parent for his child? “If a son shall ask _____ of any of you that is a father, will he give him a _____? Or if he ask a _____, will he for a fish give him a _____? Or if he shall ask an _____, will he offer him a _____? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly _____ give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Lk. 11:11-13)

Note: Why did Jesus use a stone, a fish and a scorpion in His illustration? G. Christian Weiss provides the answer: “The loaves of bread familiar to the people to whom Jesus was speaking were round, flattish, and rather dark in color. They were made of whole wheat or barley and were baked beside an open fire in a brick oven, often being covered with ash and cinders. Hence they actually had very much the same appearance as an ordinary stone on the ground might have had.

“The comparison between a fish and a serpent is similar. There are certain types of slender, edible fish which closely resemble the deadly sea snake.

“But why would He associate an egg with a scorpion? This is also a vivid comparison. While many scorpions are dark in color, there is also in the Near East a light colored variety, sometimes called the white scorpion. Though not snow white by any means, this creature, when curled up into its relaxed state, could be mistaken for an egg.” G. Christian Weiss, Insights into Bible Themes, p. 16)

2. Why does God encourage us to address Him as our Father? “In order to strengthen our _____ in God, Christ teaches us to address Him by a new name, a name entwined with the _____ associations of the human heart. He gives us the privilege of calling the _____ God our Father.” (COL 141-142)
2. How does the Father respond when we address Him as our Father? “Spoken when asking His favor or _____, it is as _____ in His ears. That we might not think it

presumption to call Him by this name, He has _____ it again and again. He desires us to become _____ with the appellation.” (COL 142)

3. How does the love of earthly parents toward their children compare with the love of God for His children? “Parents love their children, but the love of God is _____, broader, deeper, than _____ love can possibly be. It is _____.” (COL 142)
4. Which three principles of prayer did Jesus seek to teach through this parable? “He shows what is the true _____ of prayer, He teaches the necessity of _____ in presenting our requests to God, and assures us of His willingness to _____ and answer prayer.” (COL 142)

The Purpose of Prayer

1. Is prayer meant to change God’s mind? “Prayer is not to work any _____ in God; it is to bring us into _____ with God.” (COL 143)

Note: Prayer is not sanctified arm twisting. It has the puts us in tune with the infinite will and wishes of our heavenly Father. It blends our mind with His so that we are on the same page. When we discern His will through prayer, we will understand that His ways are better than our ways and His plans wiser than ours.

2. Why does God sometimes delay to answer our prayers? “When we make request of Him, He may see that it is _____ for us to search our hearts and _____ of sin. Therefore He takes us through _____ and trial, He brings us through humiliation, that we may see what _____ the working of His Holy Spirit through us.” (COL 143)
3. Will delay prove a benefit to those who will go through the time of Jacob’s trouble? “The very delay, so _____ to them is the best _____ to their petitions. As they endeavor to wait trustingly for the Lord to work they are led to _____ faith, hope, patience, which have been too _____ exercised during their religious experience.” (The Great Controversy, p. 631)

Conditions for Answered Prayer

1. What must accompany prayer? “There are _____ to the fulfillment of God’s _____, and prayer can never take the place of _____.” (COL 143)

Note: “He who does nothing but pray will soon cease to pray, or his prayers will become a formal routine.” (Steps to Christ, p. 101)

2. Are there conditions for receiving the Holy Spirit? “If ye love me, keep my _____ and I will pray to the _____, and he shall give you another _____, that he may _____ with you for ever.” (Jn. 14:14-15)
3. What relationship is there between prayer and the observance of God’s law? “He that turneth away his _____ from hearing the _____, even his prayer shall be an _____.” (Prov. 28:9)

Note: Ellen White has well remarked: “Prayer and effort, effort and prayer, will be the business of you life. You must pray as though the **efficiency** and **praise** were all due to God, and labor as though **duty** were all your own.” (Testimonies for the Church, volume 4, p. 538)

4. How did the apostle Peter underline the fact that obedience is necessary in order to receive the Holy Spirit? “And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath _____ to them that _____ him.” (Acts 5:32)
5. What does Ellen White say regarding those who pray without regard to the conditions? “Those who bring their _____ to God, claiming His promise while they do not comply with the _____, insult Jehovah.” (COL 143)

Note: “Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan’s counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God’s promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression.” (The Desire of Ages, p. 126). On the Mount of Temptation Satan tried to entice Jesus to claim His Father’s promises in disobedience (see, Mt. 4:5-7)

6. Who only has a right to claim God’s promises? “All His gifts are promised on condition of obedience. . . . All who _____ Him may with _____ claim the fulfillment of His _____.” (COL 145)
7. How can wounding others prove to be an obstacle to answered prayer? “If we have in any way grieved or _____ others, it is our duty to confess our fault and seek for reconciliation. This is an _____ preparation that we may come before God in faith, to ask His _____.” (COL 144)
8. Can unfaithful stewardship practices be a reason for unanswered prayer? “If we are unfaithful stewards of _____ things, how can we expect Him to entrust us with the things of _____? It may be that here is the secret of _____ prayer.” (COL 144)

Persistence in Prayer

Why does God sometimes delay to answer our prayers and what should we do about it? “Often he

_____ to answer us in order to _____ our faith or _____ the genuineness of our desire.
... Unswervingly _____ in prayer.” (COL 145)

2. Why do we oftentimes not see more of the power of God in our lives? “But many have not a _____ faith. This is why they do not see more of the _____ of God. Their weakness is the result of their _____.” (COL 145)
3. What will happen as a result of a faithful persistence in prayer? “The more earnestly and steadfastly we ask, the _____ will be our spiritual union with Christ. We shall receive increased _____ because we have increased faith.” (COL 146)
4. Why should we not make it a habit to tell our difficulties to others? “The practice of telling our difficulties to others only makes us _____, and brings no _____ to them. It lays upon them the burden of our spiritual infirmities, which they cannot _____. We seek the strength of erring, _____ man, when we might have the strength of the unerring, _____ God.” (COL 146)
5. How do our attitude and words affect our prayer life? “By looking at appearances and complaining when _____ and pressure come, you give evidence of a sickly, _____ faith. Talk and _____ as if your faith was invincible.” (COL 147)
6. When God makes a promise in His word, can we be certain that it will be fulfilled? “If we ask _____ according to his _____, He heareth us; and if we _____ that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we _____ that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.” (I Jn. 5:14, 15)
7. What assurance can we have that God will hear our petitions when we come to Him in the right spirit? “When we come to Him confessing our _____ and sin, He has pledged Himself to give heed to our cry. The _____ of His throne is staked for the fulfillment of His word unto us.” (COL 148)
8. What attracts the interest of angels? “When they [the angels] see one manifest Christlike _____ for the erring, they press to his side and bring to his _____ words to speak that will be as the bread of life to the soul.” (COL 149)
9. What must we do before we work for others? “Personal effort for others should be preceded by much _____ prayer; for it requires great wisdom to understand the _____ of saving souls. Before communicating with _____, commune with Christ.” (COL 149)

